

HOUSE No. 117

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, petition of Frank M. Hynes for legislation to limit campaign expenditures. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT LIMITING CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting the
3 following sentence at the end of the first paragraph in section 7:—

4 A candidate may make expenditures without limitation for the
5 purpose of his own campaign and may make campaign contribu-
6 tions without limitation for the benefit of the non-elected political
7 committee organized on his behalf.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 55 of the General Laws is hereby
2 further amended by inserting, after section 17, the following new
3 section:—

4 Section 17A. Mandatory spending limits for statewide elec-
5 tions.

6 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
7 the following campaign expenditure limitations shall apply to the
8 candidates for all elections for the following state offices, regard-
9 less of whether the candidate is financing his or her campaign
10 from private contributions, from the candidate's own resources, or
11 from the resources of his or her immediate family. For the pur-
12 poses of this section, the term "candidate" includes the committee
13 organized or operating on behalf of a candidate.

14 (1) Any candidate for governor shall limit campaign expendi-
15 tures in an election to no more than \$1.50 per person in the state,
16 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

17 (2) Any candidate for lieutenant governor, state secretary, trea-
18 surer and receiver general, state auditor or attorney general shall
19 limit campaign expenditures in an election to no more than \$.50
20 per person in the state, as determined by the most recent federal
21 decennial census.

22 (3) Any candidate for state senator or state representative shall
23 limit campaign expenditures in an election to no more than \$1.00
24 per person in the district in which he or she is seeking election.
25 The population of a district shall be calculated as the median pop-
26 ulation of like districts. The state secretary shall calculate the
27 median population of districts as of January 1 of each election
28 year and shall convey such findings to the office of campaign and
29 political finance. Said office shall make such information avail-
30 able to all candidates' committees.

31 (b) The candidate expending more than 105% of the limitations
32 imposed herein shall be disqualified from holding the office he or
33 she is seeking.

34 (c) The office of campaign and political finance may adopt
35 rules necessary to administer the provisions of this section.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.